

piece of their operation. Wisconsin Plastics is a great example of consistent improvement and growth. Their production of key components of Wisconsin industries speaks to their immense value to the State of Wisconsin. From providing parts for the defense aviation industry to the healthcare industry, Wisconsin Plastics helps keep Wisconsin running and is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin and the United States of America.

I invite all Members of this body to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin Plastics, Inc. I extend my sincerest congratulations to founder Jim Christensen, Sr., current president Jim Christensen, and the entire Wisconsin Plastics team on this outstanding milestone. I wish them lasting success for years to come.

HONORING SHEILA APPLEWHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and remarkable retired educator and cancer survivor, Sheila Applewhite, who has been a champion of breast cancer awareness, advocacy, and service in her community.

In 2007, Sheila was diagnosed with breast cancer. She leaned on her faith and sprung into action, ready to fight. Sheila stated, "I never felt the negative feelings that people tend to feel because I put my trust in God."

As she went through the process of having both breasts surgically removed, the extraction of eight lymph nodes, and chemo and radiation, her preparation remained consistent. "I would pray and anoint my head with oil," Sheila recalled. "I would also pray that God would guide my doctors' and nurses' hands." Sheila's fighting mode consisted of praying, reading, and meditating on scripture.

Since that time, Sheila has retired after a 27-year teaching career, teaching mostly second grade. She taught 6 more years at St. Joe in Greenville.

Her experience has taught her that cancer and cancer treatment varies from person to person. Sheila said that just because one person's response to treatment is hair loss, that doesn't mean it will be similar in another. But she didn't allow it to get that far in her case. "I cut my own hair off before I started receiving treatments," she said. "Some people might begin to worry or become afraid with something like hair loss. But I never felt that way."

Fully retired and enjoying her grandkids, Sheila keeps faith at the center of her life and avails herself as a symbol of hope to those on the opposite end of this journey. Sheila stated, "I never had a bad feeling about what I was going through because God said He would never leave us or forsake us. I always tell those going through cancer treatment to stay positive and put God ahead of your problems. I never felt like I was alone. And I don't mind being someone they can talk to."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheila Applewhite for her dedication to breast cancer awareness, advocacy, service and support to survivors.

RECOGNIZING NICK AYERS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nick Ayers for his service to Kentucky's Second District. Prior to joining my D.C. congressional office, the Chesapeake, Virginia, native had great work experience in congressional offices. While he was working on his degree in Public Administration at George Mason University, Nick interned in Congressman Bruce Westerman's office. Following his college graduation, Nick joined Congresswoman Diane Black's office as staff assistant and worked his way up to legislative correspondent.

In March 2019, I welcomed Nick to my team as a legislative correspondent. In this role, he did an excellent job effectively communicating to constituents and responding to their inquiries. His strong knowledge of policy earned him a promotion to legislative aide. Nick met with constituents and researched the issues in his portfolio, including veterans, postal services, science, space, technology, fisheries, and federal budget policy issues.

I want to thank Nick for his work serving Kentucky's Second District as a legislative correspondent and a legislative aide. I wish him the best as he excels in this next chapter of his career on Capitol Hill.

HONORING BESSIE ORSBY-JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Mrs. Bessie Orsby-Jones. Bessie has been a champion of breast cancer awareness, advocacy, and service in her community.

Bessie Orsby-Jones is the Founder of Divine Branches, a support group she started after going into the remission stage of cancer. Mrs. Jones was in great need of a support group, but there was not one available in her community. She had a conversation about her concerns with Kenita Faye Miller, a cancer survivor and classmate of 12 years from St. Louis. Later, Mrs. Jones was given an invitation to join The Breakfast Club Cancer Support group in St. Louis through virtual access. She soon felt strongly about forming a support group of her own. She began a search for survivors in and around Clarksdale. She soon started the support group with Catherine Holmes, Mary Caradine, Vanessa Lampkin and Joyce Clark.

Mrs. Jones said she prayed about the name of the support group and God gave her the word Divine. After she expressed it to the group, one of the members shouted, "Branches." Thus, the name "The Divine Branches" was agreed upon. Divine means directed by God, and branches was based on John 15:5 "I am the Vine you are the Branches." She knew that if the branches stayed connected to the Vine they would go forth and be productive.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bessie Orsby-Jones for her dedication to breast cancer awareness, advocacy, service and support to survivors, and remembering those who lives were lost during their battle against breast cancer.

HONORING MAYOR VELMA D. HENDRIX

HON. JULIA LETLOW

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Ms. LETLOW. Madam Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing the incredible life and tremendous legacy of Mayor Velma D. Hendrix of Melville, Louisiana. Tragically, we lost Mayor Hendrix last week, just hours before the polls closed in her campaign to win a second term in office.

Velma Hendrix was born and raised in Melville, always proud of her roots in this small town on the banks of the Atchafalaya River. She dedicated her life to serving others. Her first calling was as a teacher in St. Landry Parish's schools, impacting the lives of countless students in the classroom.

After a career in education, she stepped up to serve the people of Melville, serving as an Alderman before winning election as Mayor in 2018. She sought the office at age 80, wanting to help others at a time in life when most people are thinking about taking time off.

She ran on a platform of bringing honesty, integrity, and accountability to the municipal government, wanting to rebuild a town that had fallen on tough economic times. When asked by a reporter what her goals were in office, she said, "I just want to see Melville come back."

Madam Speaker, I cannot think of a greater example of dedication to service and commitment to others than Mayor Velma D. Hendrix. While we mourn her untimely passing, we also take comfort in knowing that her legacy will live on in her community.

PHILIP NELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Phil Nelson for his decades of service to the Citizens' Climate Lobby and to the State of Colorado.

Phil Nelson has been active in the environmental community for most of his life. In 1958, he started his education at MIT and received his B.S. in 1962 and Ph.D. in 1967; both in geophysics. After graduating from MIT, Phil worked at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (1977–1982) as well as the Sohio Petroleum, BP and Book Writing (1982–1987) before finishing his career at the United States Geological Survey (1988–2014). Phil retired in 2014 and continued his passion for environmental issues through volunteer work.

In 2014, he joined the Citizens' for Climate Lobby (CCL) in Golden, Colorado where he served as chair until 2022. This group meets regularly with local, state and federal leaders